



Emergency Medicine Society of South Africa



PRACTICE GUIDELINE

EN001

DEFINITION OF EMERGENCY NURSE AND EMERGENCY NURSING

ENSSA Practice Guidelines provide advice on recommended practice for emergency centres, emergency personnel and emergency care activities.

The information within these paper statements is advice only. ENSSA will not be held liable for clinical outcomes related to these Guidelines.

This Practice Guideline sets out EMSSA and ENSSA's definition of an Emergency Nurse and Emergency Nursing. It was developed by the 2010 Management Committee of the Emergency Nurses Society of South Africa.

Excluding the cover page, this Practice Guideline is **3** pages.

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Emergency Nurse is defined as:

A nurse, either registered or enrolled with the South African Nursing Council, who works within the emergency care environment. This nurse may have basic emergency nursing skills (enrolled nurses), intermediate emergency nursing skills (registered/professional nurse) or advanced emergency nursing skills (registered/professional nurse with an additional emergency nursing qualification).

Emergency nursing is defined as:

A specialty in which nurses care for patients in the emergency or critical phase of their illness or injury, focusing on level of severity and time-critical interventions. Collaborating with members of the emergency personnel team, the emergency nurse identifies life-threatening problems, prioritises the urgency of care, rapidly and effectively carries out resuscitative measures and appropriate management, provides information and emotional support to the patient and his/her family within a supportive health care environment (all the while acting within their Scope of Practice as defined by the South African Nursing Council).

Emergency nursing is the care of individuals of all ages with perceived or actual physical or emotional alterations of health that are undiagnosed or require further interventions. Emergency nursing is episodic, primary, and usually acute in nature. Emergency nursing is carried out in the emergency care environment, which is not confined to the emergency unit, but includes the pre-hospital and hospital environment.

References

Emergency Nurses Association. 1999. Emergency Nurses Association Scope of Emergency Nursing Practice.

Heyns T. 2003. Core competencies of the A&E (Accident and Emergency) nurse in life-threatening situations in the emergency care environment in South Africa. Unpublished: M Cur: University of Pretoria.

Howard, P.K. & Steinmann, R.A. (eds) 2010. Sheehy's Emergency Nursing Principles and Practice. 6th ed. St. Louis; Mosby.

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